

The Need of
Theological Education
in a Changing World



COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Endowment Program

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HUMANITY'S GREATEST NEED

Never in recent centuries has the world stood in greater need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ than today. The forces which have momentum in society are pagan forces. The standards of right and wrong which were previously accepted have been largely discarded and moral confusion has followed. Selfishness and greed have been the dominant motives for multitudes of men and Christian ideals have had but little part in shaping the social, economic, and political systems of our day. Indifference to the rights of others, narrow nationalism, racialism, and reliance on force have again brought upon mankind the curse of war. What the outcome of present conditions may be, no one knows. Of one thing, however, we can be sure. In the years ahead man's spiritual need will be greatly intensified. The answer to that need in our day—or in any day—can be found only in Christ.

CHRISTIANITY'S CRISIS

Because of present-day conditions, Christianity is facing a real crisis. Whole nations have turned their backs upon the Church. In many parts of the world Christians are undergoing persecution. In our own land the Church has been greatly affected by an environment, the trend of which during the past two decades has been steadily in the direction of secularism. Many institutions which were founded by Christian leaders and for centuries conducted by the Church have passed into secular hands. This is true to a notable extent of schools, colleges, hospitals, and all kinds of charity and welfare organizations. The task of the Church, therefore, is more difficult today than it has been at any time since the Middle Ages.

THE NECESSITY FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Although it has not been generally recognized, it is true that the Church has no other means so essential to the accomplishment of its mission as that of training men who are to be its future leaders. The principal effort of Jesus during the days of His ministry does not seem to have been devoted to reaching the multitudes, unsparingly though He did give Himself to the task of teaching, healing, and preaching. The thing which does seem to have concerned Him most was the training of the twelve who were to carry on His work after He had gone. In this fact is the Magna Charta of Theological Education.

In the life of the Church today it is more than ever essential that leaders be thoroughly trained, for the duties of a minister are far more exacting and the requirements for the successful performance of these duties are far greater than in any recent generation. Great changes have taken place in recent years in training for all professional careers. Standards for the professions of medicine, law, engineering, and teaching have rapidly advanced. The Christian Church likewise must see to it that its future leaders are given the best of intellectual discipline and the finest tools of scholarship that they may meet the challenge of the world in which they live. If the Church fails to provide adequately for its Theological Seminaries today it will face inevitable decay and possible disaster in the near future.

COLUMBIA SEMINARY AND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Over a period of 111 years Columbia Theological Seminary has made a contribution of unusual significance to Southern Presbyterianism. During this period it has trained 1167 men for the Gospel Ministry. Among the outstanding leaders whom it has given to the Church, are such men as Benjamin M. Palmer, James Henley Thornwell, John Leighton Wilson, J. B. Adger, Charles Colcock Jones, James Woodrow, John L. Girardeau, Hampden C. DuBose, C. A. Stillman, C. W. Grafton, Samuel L. Morris, and many others. Woodrow Wilson, the son of a professor in the institution, made his first public profession of Christian faith at a service held in its chapel.

Of the 56 sons of the institution who have gone as missionaries to the foreign field, 16 are in active service today. These are located in Africa, Brazil, China, Japan, and Korea. Dr. C. Darby Fulton, an alumnus of Columbia Seminary,



Campbell Hall

is now serving as Executive Secretary of our entire Foreign Mission work. Hundreds of Columbia graduates have also served in the no less important task of Home Missions. Over 400 of these graduates are today actively at work in pastorates of the Church. These are located in 30 of the United States, in Canada, and in the Canal Zone. Of the number serving in the supporting Synods 30 are in Alabama, 23 in Florida, 75 in Georgia, 29 in Mississippi, and 71 in South Carolina.

Year by year Columbia is sending out other groups of ministers who are doing a notable part in the work of our Assembly. There is no sphere of the Church in which the influence of this Seminary has not been vitally felt.

A DECADE OF PROGRESS

The wisdom of removing Columbia Seminary to Atlanta has been attested by the increased service which it has rendered to our Church. Within the

brief period of twelve years, it has sent forth 201 of its graduates into the service of the Southern Church. A majority of these young ministers are serving churches within the five States for which the Seminary has an especial responsibility.

Another evidence of the value of the present strategic location is the gradual but marked increase in the percentage of students enrolled in Columbia Seminary relative to the total number enrolled in all of the Seminaries of the Southern Presbyterian Church. Thus during the scholastic year 1925-1926, when the decision was made to remove the Seminary to Atlanta, only 11.15% of the students enrolled in Seminaries of the Southern Church were students in Columbia, while the present enrollment represents 23.91% of the total number now in these institutions.

PRESENT ASSETS

When the Seminary was removed to Atlanta a beautiful campus of fifty-seven acres was provided for it. Two handsome and modern academic buildings unsurpassed for their purpose in the Presbyterian world and five commodious homes for faculty members have been built. This property is conservatively valued at \$500,000, and is now without debt. All obligations incurred during the period of transition have been paid and the institution is now entirely free of indebtedness. It also has endowment funds aggregating \$369,575.

The ability of the Faculty of the Seminary is recognized throughout the Church. In addition to their work in the classroom and in pulpits and church conferences of the Southeast, members of the group have produced a notable number of scholarly and stimulating religious books and articles in recent years. The Faculty also seeks constantly to deepen the religious and spiritual life of the students, and to emphasize the place of evangelism in the life of the Church.

Conservative in its theological outlook, the Seminary is progressive in methods of instruction and is constantly seeking to improve the training given its students. Within the past two years, it has pioneered for the Southern Presbyterian Church in seeking to provide a year of clinical or practical training for the students before they begin their work in the ministry.

The library consists of 34,000 volumes and is one of the most valuable collections of theological literature in the South.

In 1938 Columbia was one of the forty-six Seminaries in America included in the first list of fully accredited institutions which was compiled after careful investigation by the American Association of Theological Schools.

WIDENING HORIZONS

One of the most significant educational developments in the South is found in the steps which are being taken to establish a Greater University Center in Atlanta. Columbia Seminary has been invited to cooperate with Agnes Scott College, Emory University, The University System of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, and The High Museum of Art in the furtherance of this enterprise. Under plans which are being made, each institution will retain its complete independence but all will work together to provide opportunities which would not otherwise be possible. It is anticipated that in the course of years this will enable graduate students working at Columbia Seminary under the guidance of its Faculty to have facilities for research which are now available only in the great universities of the North and East.



*Burning of the Bonds—May, 1937
Celebrating the Seminary's Freedom From Indebtedness*

THE IMMEDIATE NEED OF COLUMBIA SEMINARY

It is a matter of urgent necessity that the Endowment of the Seminary should be increased. The budget has been balanced during recent years, but this has been possible only because of the sacrificial attitude of the Faculty and generous support through special contributions. One gift of \$5,000 a year for current expenses which has been made for the past three years will not be available after 1941. Provision must be made for this item of the budget as well as for other funds to meet the requirements of growth and the ever-increasing requests for service from the churches.

The reality of the need of additional endowment becomes more apparent when comparison is made with endowments of other representative theological institutions.

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Endowment</i>
Columbia Theological Seminary	Decatur, Ga.	\$ 369,575
Candler School of Theology	Emory University, Ga.	564,060
Vanderbilt School of Religion	Nashville, Tenn.	700,000
Louisville Theological Seminary	Louisville, Ky.	1,169,613
Union Theological Seminary	Richmond, Va.	1,534,156
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	Louisville, Ky.	2,923,000
The Presbyterian Theological Seminary	Chicago, Ill.	2,927,000
Princeton Theological Seminary	Princeton, N. J.	4,083,290

A GENEROUS OFFER AND A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Realizing the great need of Columbia Seminary for additional Endowment, a faithful and generous friend of the institution has offered to contribute \$100,000 to the endowment fund upon condition that other friends of the institution shall subscribe a like amount and that evidence shall be given of an increased interest in the support of the Seminary on the part of the Presbyterians of the constituent Synods. This challenging offer was placed before the five supporting Synods at recent meetings and each of these heartily approved a special effort by the Seminary to secure the necessary amount and warmly commended the undertaking to the prayers and gifts of the members of the churches.

In obedience to their decision the Seminary is now entering upon an effort to secure \$100,000 which, according to the terms of the conditional offer, will be matched dollar for dollar. The success of this undertaking will insure a larger program of service by the Seminary to Southern Presbyterians and to the Kingdom of God.



Prepared for Service

THE APPEAL OF COLUMBIA SEMINARY

Humanity's need for the Gospel of Christ, the crisis confronted by Christianity, and the absolute necessity for able and spiritual leadership in the ministry make it abundantly clear that Theological Education must be adequately supported if the Church is to perform her mission. In the light of its strategic location in the heart of Southeastern America, of its faithful and distinguished service to the Church in the past, and of the rare opportunity which now challenges it to prepare for the future, Columbia Seminary solicits the prayers and the gifts of churches and individuals throughout the supporting Synods.